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## PLAGUE-PREVENTION WORK.

### PLAGUE AMONG GROUND SQUIRRELS.

During the past two months greater numbers of plague-infected ground squirrels have been reported than heretofore. The reason for this apparent increase of plague is as follows:

During the past year the chief efforts of the service have been directed toward outlining definitely the area of infection. As a consequence the greater number of squirrels collected were in areas outside of the limit of infection, and few infected squirrels were therefore found.

Now that the area of infection is believed to be definitely known, the principal efforts are being directed toward the elimination of known foci of infection, and greater numbers of infected squirrels are being found than was formerly the case.

### PLAGUE-INFECTED GROUND SQUIRRELS FOUND IN CALIFORNIA.

During the week ended September 23 a diagnosis of plague was made in 3 squirrels found in Contra Costa County. The squirrels had been obtained as follows:

Peoples' Water Co.,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles east of Stege, Rancho El Sobrante, Brissac tract, 3 ground squirrels—2 on September 9 and 1 on September 15, 1911.

### DISTRIBUTION OF POISON.

In connection with the making and maintenance of a squirrel-free zone around the cities of California on San Francisco Bay, 7,271 acres of land in Alameda County and 1,225 acres in Contra Costa County were covered with poison during the week ended September 23, 1911.

During the same period 2,360 acres of land in San Joaquin County and 1,300 acres in Stanislaus County were covered with poison for the purpose of eradicating plague foci.

## Record of Plague Infection.

Places.	Date of last case of human plague.	Date of last case of rat plague.	Date of last case of squirrel plague.	Total number of rodents infected since May, 1907.
California:				
Cities—				
San Francisco.....	Jan. 30, 1908....	Oct. 23, 1908....	None.....	398 rats.
Oakland.....	Aug. 9, 1911....	Dec. 1, 1908....	.....do.....	126 rats.
Berkeley.....	Aug. 27, 1907....	None.....	.....do.....	None.
Los Angeles.....	Aug. 11, 1908....	.....do.....	Aug. 21, 1908....	1 squirrel.
Counties—				
Alameda (exclusive of Oakland and Berkeley).	Sept. 26, 1909....	Oct. 17, 1909....	Aug. 9, 1911....	108 squirrels, 1 wood rat.
Contra Costa.....	July 21, 1911....	None.....	Sept. 15, 1911....	362 squirrels.
Merced.....	None.....	.....do.....	July 13, 1911....	5 squirrels.
Monterey.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	Aug. 6, 1911....	Do.
San Benito.....	June 5, 1910....	.....do.....	June 8, 1911....	22 squirrels.
San Joaquin.....	Sept. 18, 1911....	.....do.....	Aug. 26, 1911....	18 squirrels.
San Luis Obispo.....	None.....	.....do.....	Jan. 29, 1910....	1 squirrel.
Santa Clara.....	Aug. 23, 1910....	.....do.....	Oct. 5, 1910....	23 squirrels.
Santa Cruz.....	None.....	.....do.....	May 17, 1910....	3 squirrels.
Stanislaus.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	June 2, 1911....	13 squirrels.
Washington:				
City—				
Seattle.....	Oct. 30, 1907....	Aug. 26, 1911....	None.....	23 rats.

## Rats Collected and Examined for Plague Infection.

Places.	Week ended—	Found dead.	Total collected.	Examined.	Found infected.
California:					
Cities—					
Berkeley.....	Sept. 23.....	23	<sup>1</sup> 146	76	None.
Oakland.....	.....do.....	20	<sup>2</sup> 672	532	Do.
San Francisco.....	.....do.....	20	<sup>3</sup> 1,641	1,121	Do.
County—					
San Joaquin.....	.....do.....		<sup>4</sup> 1	1	Do.
Washington:					
City—					
Seattle.....	.....do.....		768	689	.....

<sup>1</sup> Identified, *Mus norvegicus* 102, *Mus musculus* 44.<sup>2</sup> Identified, *Mus norvegicus* 582, *Mus musculus* 89, *Mus alexandrinus* 1.<sup>3</sup> Identified, *Mus norvegicus* 947, *Mus musculus* 418, *Mus rattus* 189, *Mus alexandrinus* 87.<sup>4</sup> Identified, *Mus alexandrinus* 1.

## Squirrels Collected and Examined for Plague Infection.

Places.	Week ended—	Shot or trapped.	Found dead.	Examined.	Found infected.
California:					
Cities—					
Berkeley.....	Sept. 23.....	1		1	None.
San Francisco.....	.....do.....	1		0	None.
Counties—					
Alameda.....	.....do.....	106	48	113	None.
Butte.....	.....do.....	181		20	None.
Colusa.....	.....do.....	93	2	81	None.
Contra Costa.....	.....do.....	102	92	141	<sup>3</sup>
Glenn.....	.....do.....	297		239	None.
Kern.....	.....do.....	48		48	None.
Lake.....	.....do.....	90		90	None.
Mendocino.....	.....do.....	161		110	None.
Merced.....	.....do.....	86		86	None.
San Benito.....	.....do.....	35		35	None.
San Joaquin.....	.....do.....	87	7	94	None.
Shasta.....	.....do.....	41		41	None.
Sonoma.....	.....do.....	75		75	None.
Stanislaus.....	.....do.....	211	1	212	None.
Yolo.....	.....do.....	106		57	None.
Oregon:					
County—					
Jackson.....	.....do.....	19		19	None.
Total.....		1,740	150	1,462	3

## Other Animals Collected and Examined.

Places.	Week ended—	Animals collected.	Examined.	Found infected.
<b>California:</b>				
City—				
Berkeley.....	Sept. 23	2 gophers.....	2	None.
Counties—				
Alameda.....	do.....	1 wood rat.....	1	None.
Colusa.....	do.....	14 rabbits.....	14	None.
Glenn.....	do.....	8 wood rats, 3 weasels.....	11	None.
Merced.....	do.....	7 rabbits.....	7	None.
San Benito.....	do.....	1 kangaroo rat, 2 owls, 1 chipmunk.	1	None.
San Joaquin.....	do.....	5 rabbits.....	5	None.
Shasta.....	do.....	9 rabbits.....	9	None.
Stanislaus.....	do.....	10 rabbits.....	10	None.
Total.....			60	

## SMALLPOX IN THE UNITED STATES.

In the following tables the States indicated by an asterisk are those from which reports of smallpox are received only from certain city, and in some cases county, boards of health. In these States, therefore, the recorded cases and deaths should not be taken as showing the general prevalence of the disease. In the States not marked by an asterisk the reports are received monthly from the State boards of health and include all cases reported throughout the State.

## Reports Received During Week Ended Oct. 13, 1911.

Places.	Date.	Cases.	Deaths.	Remarks.
<b>*Alabama:</b>				
Montgomery.....	Sept. 24-30.....	2		
<b>Florida:</b>				
Counties—				
Bradford.....	do.....	2		
Jackson.....	do.....	26		
Total for State.....		28		
<b>Maryland:</b>				
	Aug. 1-31.....			No cases.
	Sept. 1-30.....			Do.
<b>Michigan:</b>				
Counties—				
Gratiot.....	Aug. 1-31.....	2		
Mackinac.....	do.....	5		
Montcalm.....	do.....	2		
St. Clair.....	do.....	10		
Wayne.....	do.....	3		
Total for State.....		22		
<b>New York:</b>				
Counties—				
Cattaraugus.....	Aug. 1-31.....	7		
Jefferson.....	do.....	1		
Onondaga.....	do.....	3		
Steuben.....	do.....	3		
Total for State.....		14		
<b>North Carolina:</b>				
Counties—				
Catawba.....	Aug. 1-31.....	1		
Cumberland.....	do.....	2		
Durham.....	do.....	1		
Granville.....	do.....	18		
Guilford.....	do.....	3		
Harnett.....	do.....	2		
McDowell.....	do.....	1		
Mecklenburg.....	do.....	4		
Robeson.....	do.....	2		
Vance.....	do.....	12		
Warren.....	do.....	9		
Total for State.....		55		